



33
SEPT

DIGITAL
EDITION

LAYMAN
FERREIRA
PANSICA
RIBEIRO

THE SCORCHED



THE SCORCHED[®]

image

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EDITION

LAYMAN
FERREIRA
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RIBEIRO



VON RANDAL
2022 JJ
+fco

THE SCORCHED



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PREVIOUSLY IN *THE SCORCHED*

Jessica leaves the battle with her old team gravely injured, having failed her mission. But her sacrifices have gained her Jason Wynn's trust.

HER BIO SCANS REGISTERED ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE LIFE SIGNS, AND SHE'D BEEN COMPLETELY INERT SINCE HER CAPTURE ALL THOSE MONTHS AGO--

SO, THE SCIENTISTS DECLARED THIS 'HAUNT CREATURE' DEAD.

WE'VE DELAYED THIS LONGER THAN WE SHOULD HAVE.

TAKE HER TO AUTOPSY. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND WHAT MADE THIS THING TICK.

GETTING ANY BIOLOGICAL ANSWERS TO THIS THING'S D.N.A. MAKE-UP IS NOW ALL THEY HAVE LEFT.

THEY TOOK HER TO THE SURGICAL WING IN THE LOWER LEVELS OF *THE AGENCY*, A RECENTLY REFORMED GOVERNMENT BLACK OPS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO DEALING WITH SUPERNATURAL THREATS.

TRADITIONAL THINKING HAS TAUGHT US THAT AS ONE'S LIFE FADES AWAY, OUR LIFE FLASHES BEFORE US.

ALL BIO READINGS ARE FLATLINED. ORGAN HARVESTING WILL BE THE PRIORITY.

DISSECTION IS AT THE QUARTER MARK. WE'LL MOVE TO LOWER ABDOMINAL INTRUSION NEXT.

BUT FOR HAUNT --*THIS* HAUNT-- THE ONLY THING IT SAW WAS *DEATH*.

THE DEATHS IT *CAUSED*.

THE DEATHS THAT *FED* IT.

AND THE DEATHS THAT TRIGGERED ITS *REBIRTH*.



SOPHIA SWAIN WANTED TO BE A NURSE BECAUSE SHE SAW SO MUCH BAD IN THE WORLD, SO MUCH HURT, AND SHE THOUGHT SHE COULD HELP MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.



BUT MUCH OF HER TIME WAS OCCUPIED SAVING PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T DESERVE SAVING.



MR. BORS, IT SAYS YOU WERE FOUND AMONGST A DOZEN DEAD BODIES, INCLUDING THREE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS. THEY SAY YOU'RE SOME SORT OF MAFIOSO HITMAN.



SO, NURSE SWAIN DETERMINED THAT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE...



...A LITTLE BAD WAS THE BEST WAY TO DO GOOD.

THE *FIRST* TIME WAS
THE HARDEST FOR HER.

BUT IT GOT EASIER
EACH TIME SHE
ADMINISTERED
HER JUSTICE.



EASIER AND
EASIER.

THE LACED DRUGS
DWAYNE HOOVER SOLD
KILLED 18 PEOPLE.



THE CANCER DRUG AT
THE PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANY REBECCA
HOLMES RAN WAS
UTTERLY INEFFECTIVE--

--SHE MARKETING
THE DRUG TO TENS
OF THOUSANDS,
NONETHELESS.



AND DIRTY COP,
WESLEY STARBUCK,
WAS AS CROOKED
AS THEY COME.



OFFICE STARBUCK WAS A BULLY AS WELL AS BASTARD AND WOULDN'T GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT.



TWO DOZEN KILLS, AND **NOTHING** LIKE THIS HAD EVER HAPPENED.



BUT WHAT CAME **AFTER** WAS EVEN MORE UNEXPECTED.



AS SOME UNFORESEEN SIDE EFFECT CREATED **SUPERNATURAL** FALLOUT.

THAT INCIDENT PREVENTED
NURSE SWAIN FROM MAKING
HER USUAL QUIET *GETAWAY*.

FREEZE!

LET ME
SEE YOUR
HANDS!

THEY'D BEEN SEARCHING FOR
THE "ANGEL OF JUSTICE"
KILLER FOR MONTHS.

NOW DETECTIVES
BURKE AND
WILLIAMS WERE
ABLE TO CATCH
HER IN THE ACT.

I SAID,
SHOW ME
YOUR **GOD
DAMN**
HANDS!



THEN THE
UNEXPECTED
HAPPENED.



AS THE NEWFOUND
GHOST INEXPLICABLY
SWALLOWED ITS
HUMAN HOST.



MERGING
HER SOUL
WITH ITS
SPIRIT.



COMBINING
THE TWO
INTO ONE.

DO I
SHOOT
IT?!



YEARS LATER, A SIMILAR
CREATURE WOULD APPEAR,
BORNE OF A SIMILAR
MERGER OF ONE DEAD
SOUL AND ONE ALIVE.

A CREATURE WOULD
BE GIVEN A NAME...

HAUNT.



EVEN TWO DIRECT
HITS TO ITS BACK
DIDN'T SLOW THIS
VERSION.



THIS
FEELS LIKE
IT'S CONNECTED
TO THAT WACK JOB
WITH THE RED CAPE
THAT'S SUPPOSED
TO BE HIDING IN
RAT CITY?

WE'RE
F*CKED.



WHATEVER
THIS THING
IS, ITS VITALS
SUGGEST IT
WAS **ONCE**
HUMAN.

THOUGH
HOW AND WHY
IT TRANSFORMED
IT INTO *THIS*, WE
NEED TO FIND
THAT OUT.

THE DOCTORS
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TURNED
THEIR BACKS
ON THE THING.

BECAUSE THEY'D HAVE
SEEN THAT DESPITE
THE MONITORS AND
READINGS, THE HAUNT
CREATURE HAD NEVER
TRULY DIED.

AT FIRST, IT KILLED
THE PEOPLE WHO
DESERVED IT.

THEN IT SIMPLY
THRIVED ON ANY
SLAUGHTER.



EVENTUALLY, THOUGH,
THE HAUNT REALIZED
IT WASN'T KILLING **BAD**
GUYS THAT DROVE IT--



IT WAS SIMPLY
FIXATED ON
DEATH ITSELF.



AND ITS ACTIONS
BEGAN TO DRAW
THE ATTENTION
OF OTHERS.

YEARS AGO, WHEN SPAWN HAD JUST APPEARED IN NEW YORK, WHEN AL SIMMONS HAD JUST COME BACK TO EARTH AFTER FIVE YEARS DEAD--

--HE WAS STILL TRYING TO SORT OUT WHO ALL THE PLAYERS WERE IN HIS HIDEOUS GAME OF WAR.

BACK AWAY AND
FACE ME!

I'M GETTING TIRED OF US HUMANS HAVING TO DEAL WITH F*CKERS LIKE YOU!

WHO WERE ENEMIES AND WHO WERE FRIENDS.

THAT THIS CREATURE
WAS AN ENEMY WAS
EMINENTLY CLEAR.

THE QUESTION
FOR SPAWN
WAS HOW
COULD HE
DEFEAT IT?

AND IF HE
COULD WIN...



...WERE
THERE
MORE
LIKE THIS
ONE?



INSTINCTIVELY,
THEY SENSED
ONE ANOTHER'S
POWER...

FORCING BOTH
TO FIGHT WITH
SAVAGERY.

BOTH KNEW THAT LOSING THIS NIGHT
WOULD SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE
TO THOSE WHO, FROM A DISTANCE,
WERE WATCHING THE WAR
UNFOLDING ACROSS EARTH.

THIS HAPPENED AT A TIME WHEN SPAWN WAS STILL LEARNING HIS POWERS, WHEN AL SIMMONS HAD NOT YET DISCOVERED THE FULL RANGE OF HIS ABILITIES.

BUT OVER TIME, CONSTANT ATTACKS FROM BEINGS LIKE *THIS* HELPED SPAWN HONE THE SUPER-NATURAL ABILITIES HE'D BEEN GIVEN.

THOOM



HE NEVER SAW THE CREATURE AGAIN, PRESUMING HE'D KILLED IT.



7:9:9:1

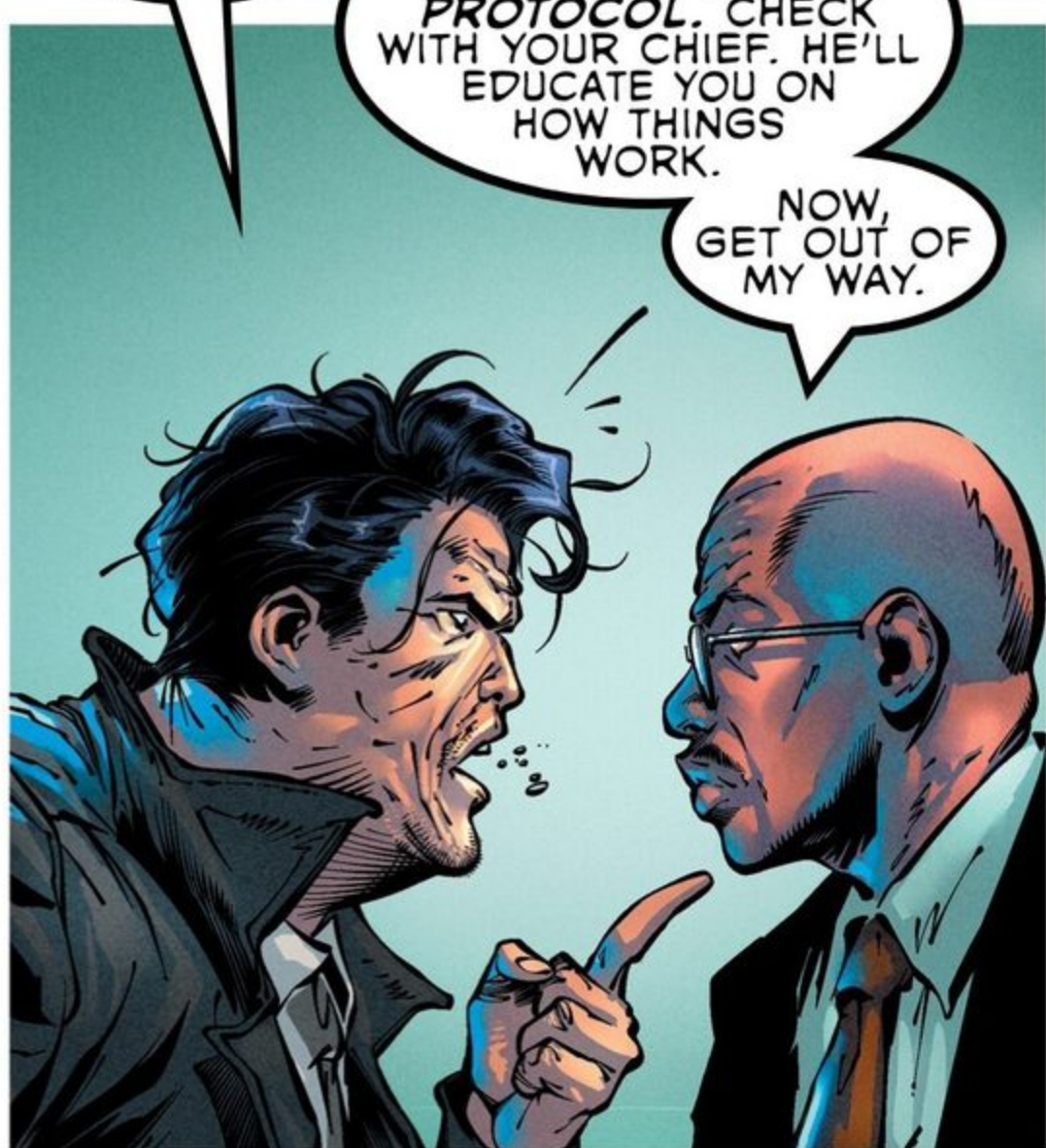
THE POLICE ARRIVED AFTER SPAWN LEFT, FOLLOWED BY A FEDERAL COVERT GROUP CALLED **THE AGENCY**, WHICH TOOK CONTROL.



THIS IS **BULLSHIT!**

NO, IT'S ACTUALLY, GOVERNMENT **PROTOCOL**. CHECK WITH YOUR CHIEF. HE'LL EDUCATE YOU ON HOW THINGS WORK.

NOW, GET OUT OF MY WAY.



THE AGENCY TOOK THE CREATURE AWAY FOR "SAFEKEEPING" AND MUZZLED OTHER AUTHORITIES FROM TALKING ABOUT IT.



YEARS LATER, WHEN JASON WYNN TOOK CHARGE OF THE AGENCY HE DESIGNED A PLAN TO CONTROL IT AND...



...TO POTENTIALLY **WEAPONIZE** IT.

AT LEAST, *THAT*
WAS THE PLAN.



UNTIL IT
WASN'T.



TO THIS DAY, NO ONE
UNDERSTANDS HOW IT
SURVIVED.



BUT IT DID.



IT TOOK NEARLY FORTY MINUTES FOR WYNN'S TROOPS TO NEUTRALIZE THE THREAT...

USING EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE AT THEIR DISPOSAL. THEY'D BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE THE CREATURE ALIVE--WHICH EVENTUALLY THEY DID. BUT NOT BEFORE A DOZEN MEN WERE LOST.

IN THE SUBSEQUENT MONTHS MANY OF THE ENLISTED RETIRED, ANGERED THAT THEIR SUPERIORS HAD SO CASUALLY LED THOSE POOR MEN TO SLAUGHTER.



IT'S A RIFF THAT STILL EXISTS IN THAT BUILDING.



THE CREATURE, NOW VERY MUCH ALIVE, WAS RETURNED TO ITS CONFINEMENT. WHERE IT WOULD PATIENTLY WAIT-- WHILE ITS HUNGER GREW.

THEN NOT LONG FROM NOW, IT WILL LEARN IT'S NOT THE *ONLY* HAUNT ON EARTH.*



THAT KNOWLEDGE GAVE THE CREATURE A *NEW* PURPOSE:

TO ESCAPE. FIND THE *OTHER* HAUNT. THEN TAKE *EVERY* OUNCE OF THAT TARGET'S POWER!



SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS: SDCC 2024 SPOTLIGHT



Editor in Chief Thomas Healy isn't camera shy.



Todd shooting content for McFarlane Toys.



Jonathan Glapion signing.



Production Team hanging out on preview night.



Erica Shultz posing with her awesome fans.



Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawningground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S ? UNIVERSE

DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES!

SPAWN

KING SPAWN

THE SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER



KING SPAWN #38
SEPTEMBER 2024



GUNSLINGER #36
OCTOBER 2024

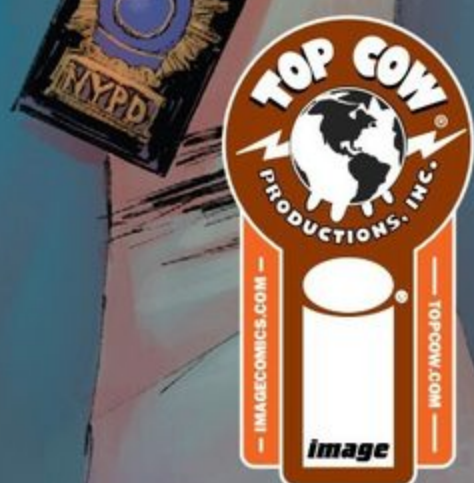


SPAWN #357
OCTOBER 2024

When the forces of Darkness and Light threaten to destroy
our world... she's the weapon we need.

WITCHBLADE®

Legendary creator
Marc Silvestri
teams with *Batwoman's*
Marguerite Bennett
& *Suicide Squad's*
Giuseppe Cafaro



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THE SCORCHED 34



OCTOBER 2024



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